

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 03251 221544Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
HA-05 SMS-01 /072 W  
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R 221442Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4528  
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, CZ, UR, SW  
SUBJECT: SWEDISH ACTIVITY ON 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOVIET INVASION OF  
CZECHOSLOVAKIA

1. SWEDISH ACTIVITIES MARKING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WERE MORE EXTENSIVE AND  
BROADLY BASED THIS YEAR PERHAPS THAN IN ANY YEAR SINCE 1968.  
MEDIA PLAY WAS EXTRAORDINARILY HEAVY AND UNIFORMLY CRITICAL  
OF SOVIET UNION. SERIES OF PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS IN  
STOCKHOLM AND A DOZEN SMALLER CITIES INVOLVED THE PARTICIPATION  
OF MEMBERS OF ALL NON-COMMUNIST PARTIES (AS WELL AS THREE OF  
THE FOUR COMMUNIST PARTY FACTIONS). THE ONLY EXCEPTION WAS  
THE STALINIST WORKERS' COMMUNIST PARTY (APK) WHICH CHOSE TO  
REMAIN SILENT.

2. FM KARIN SODER ROUNDLY CONDEMNED THE SOVIET ACTION  
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 03251 221544Z

AND THE CZECH GOVERNMENT: "TEN YEARS AGO THE USSR  
AND OTHER WARSAW PACT STATES INVADED CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO  
'DEFEND SOCIALIST GAINS,' AS IT WAS SAID. AUGUST 21, 1968  
MEANT THE END OF THE DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS GREATER FREEDOM  
IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. THE TEN YEARS SINCE 1968 HAVE BEEN  
CHARACTERIZED BY A SYSTEMATIC OPPRESSION OF DISSIDENTS  
AND BY GRAVE VIOLATIONS OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS.

FOREIGN TROOPS ARE STILL ON CZECHOSLOVAK SOIL."

3. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY EXECUTIVE BOARD SAID:  
"THE PRAGUE SPRING WAS CRUSHED, BUT ITS IDEAS ARE STILL  
ALIVE. WE DEMAND THAT THE CZECH PEOPLE BE ALLOWED TO  
DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE AND THAT THIS PEOPLE BE  
SPARED FOREIGN INTRUDERS."

4. SDP LEADER AND FORMER PM OLOF PALME BITTERLY ATTACKED  
THE SOVIET INVASION AND THE CURRENT CZECH GOVERNMENT:  
"IN THE 30'S, CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS AHEAD OF SWEDEN IN TERMS  
OF BOTH DEMOCRACY AND STANDARD OF LIVING. DEMOCRACY WAS  
ESTABLISHED WHEN HITLER'S OCCUPATION ENDED. BUT THEN CAME  
THE MOSCOW-SUPPORTED PRAGUE COUP IN 1948 AND THE INVASION  
IN 1968 AFTER ATTEMPTS TO CREATE A SOCIALISM WITH A  
HUMANE FACE. TODAY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS THE TOUGHEST, SADDEST  
AND MOST UNBENDING REPRESSION APPARATUS IN EUROPE AND THE  
STANDARD OF LIVING IS LOW. THIS IS WHAT COMMUNISM HAS GIVEN  
THEM, AND WE CAN LEARN FROM THIS EVEN IN SWEDEN."

5. LARS WERNER, CHAIRMAN OF THE PRINCIPAL COMMUNIST  
PARTY FACTION, THE VPK, SAID: "WHEN THE VPK PROTESTED  
ON AUGUST 21, 1968 AGAINST THE WARSAW PACT INVASION  
WE DID SO BECAUSE THE INTERVENTION FLAGRANTLY VIOLATED  
SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES CONCERNING NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND  
THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THE SO-CALLED PRAGUE  
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PAGE 03 STOCKH 03251 221544Z

SPRING WAS NOT DESIGNED TO ABANDON SOCIALISM, BUT TO  
DEVELOP IT."

6. A LETTER SIGNED BY 500 SWEDISH AUTHORS EXPRESSING  
SUPPORT OF THE STRUGGLE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PEOPLE FOR  
DEMOCRACY AND INDEPENDENCE WAS DELIVERED ON AUGUST 17 TO  
ALL WARSAW PACT EMBASSIES IN STOCKHOLM.

7. A TORCHLIGHT PARADE AND DEMONSTRATION WAS HELD IN  
STOCKHOLM ON AUGUST 21 WITH MORE THAN 3,000 PARTICIPATING.  
LIBERAL PARTY MP KERSTIN ANER ADDRESSED THE MEETING, SAYING:  
"TO CUT THE TONGUE OUT OF A PEOPLE IS ALSO A WAY TO MURDER IT.  
WE WHO HAVE TONGUES AND CAN YELL ARE GOING TO DO THAT ON  
THEIR BEHALF. THOSE WHO ARE ENGAGED IN UNDERGROUND ACTIVITY  
LISTEN TO US. THEIR MASTERS ALSO LISTEN TO US, AND THEY  
DISAPPROVE VEHEMENTLY OUR YELLING, WHEN IT IS SO QUIET  
WHERE THEY ARE."

8. THE FOLKET I BILD/KULTURFRONT WEEKLY MAGAZINE, WHICH  
APPARENTLY PLAYED A LARGE ROLE IN DEVELOPING MANY 10TH  
ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES, CIRCULATED THROUGHOUT SWEDEN A  
"SOVIETS OUT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA" APPEAL SIGNED THUS FAR

BY 35,000 PEOPLE IN SWEDEN INCLUDING PARLIAMENTARIANS,  
ARTISTS, ACTORS AND RELIGIOUS AND ACADEMIC LEADERS.  
THE SAME PUBLICATION PRINTED A LETTER FROM THREE CZECHS  
IDENTIFIED AS SPOKESMEN FOR THE CHARTA 77 MOVEMENT.  
THE LETTER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE SWEDISH  
COMMEMORATION OF THE SOVIET INVASION, ADDING THAT "THESE  
EXPRESSIONS OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY STRENGTHEN US IN  
OUR FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPECT FOR OUR LAWS."  
IT WAS SIGNED BY DR. LADISLAV HEJDANEK, MARTA KUBISOVA  
AND DR. JAROSLAV SABATA.  
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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## Message Attributes

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